

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/83/16

Title: 8th Sanitary Section, Australian
Mounted Division

April 1919



AWM4-26/83/16

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

8th SANITARY SECTION

FOR

APRIL 1919



Signature of Officer compiling _____

Signature of Officer Commanding _____

Charles Major
D. D. M. J. Audin



Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MOFSCAR	April 1919	1	Capt. C.W.W. Murray relinquished temporary command unit now under direct supervision of Major L. Anderson M.C. D.A.D.M. Auss Div.	
			Report rendered by senior N.C.O. on sanitation of camp, copy app'd.	No 1
		2/4	Nil.	(Strength 16 D.R.s)
		5	Sanitary report rendered to A.D.M. by senior N.C.O., copy app'd.	No 2
		6/12	Inspections carried out daily, a small gang of E.F.L. with one D.R. sent out daily to thoroughly scavenge the area between camps.	
		13	All E.F.L. personnel were withdrawn by D.C., Military Labour Bureau, Dromalia & replaced by a gang of 40 contractor's labourers. These were allotted to all camps under administration of Auss Div., also Anema & A.I.I. Caterer area. A few remaining labourers were utilized for scavenging as required.	
		14/15	Nil.	
		16	One D.R. rejoined from detachment with 1 st Lt. H. St. Aubert.	
		17	Acting on instructions of A.D.M. Auss Div., an N.C.O. inspected Sayed, Fish's Post to report on conditions re mosquito breeding. A copy of report & plan of camp area is appended.	No 3
		18/20	Nil.	12

No. _____
 Date _____
 * AUST. MTD. DIVN. *

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MOASCAR	April 1919	21	One O.R. evacuated sick	
		22/3	Nul.	
		24	One O.R. rejoined from sick one O.R. from detachment with 3rd L.H. Amba. One inspector now with each of 3rd & 5th Ambas.	
		25	Two O.R.s were sick & two contacts marched out to isolation camp.	
		26/28	Report rendered 27th by senior N.C.O., copy appended	No 4
		29	1 sqd one O.R. marched out to "A" Details for embarkation (10% leave to U.K.). Strength now one sqd eleven O.R.s	

No. 8 SANITARY SECTION
 No. _____
 Date 2/5/19
 * AUST. MTD. DIVN. *

Quosson Major
 D.D. M. G. Amba

WAR DIARY

OF

8th SANITARY SECTION

FOR

APRIL 1919

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Sanitary report.
2.	do. do..
3.	Anti-malarial report, FAYED FISHING POST.
4.	Sanitary report.

A.D.M.S.

AUSDIV.

SANITARY REPORT.

Canteen and Cinema Area - 8 E.L.C. under the 116th San. Sec., R.A.M.C. are responsible for the sanitation of this area. I have this information from a Sgt. i/c of detachment from that unit attached to the R.A.S.C., MOASCAR.

On instructions from Capt. MURRAY C.W.W. a man was sent from this unit to remedy things complained of in a previous report. At the same time a letter was written to O.C. 116th San. Sec. asking for certain alterations re latrineage (copy of letter attached) but this was not complied with and is the chief subject of the 5th B.S.O.'s report. Re orange peel etc., this is inevitable where hundreds of men congregate almost all day but it would be lessened if his suggestion re moving the "Gambling School" were carried out.

E.L.C. - Work is still being hindered by the way these men are handled. The Bash Reis is the chief cause of the trouble and as reported before, if no 'backsheesh' is forthcoming from one district he moves men to another. MOHAMMED HASSAN he gives as his name but has no number. We cannot say we are short of native labour, if they were better handled the present number would be ample.

FLIES - The present plague of flies comes chiefly from the area lately occupied by 3rd Brigade. Manure left in the horse lines, in heaps and in bags, is the main cause and grease traps contained bones and lumps of meat etc. and were left generally dirty.

Horse manure is the worst thing we have to deal with as it always happens that the last day's droppings are not carted away but heaped or bagged and left. Col. Potts reports that this is the case with the 42th Regt..

I find that in nearly all units the natives, instead of being used for sanitary duties, are either washing clothes, carrying water or cleaning dixies and their own work suffers in consequence. Units have been warned of this practice but very little notice is taken.

(sgd.) W.S. Staffmith S/sgt.
8th San. Sec.

1/4/19

(copy)

APPENDIX NO. 2.

A.D.M.S.
AUSDIV.SANITARY REPORT.

4th Brigade - B.H.Q. In good order.
Amb'ce Satisfactory.

M.G.S.) Details of these units left behind have not removed ashes from
4th Regt.) incinerators to barges, also in the 42th lines some bags of manure
11th Regt.) (previously reported) have not yet been removed. I found fly-breeding
12th Regt.) in these lines two days ago.

5th Brigade -

B.H.Q.) Most of these troops have moved out but area left in a very unsatis-
Signals) -factory condition. Incinerators foul and conducive to fly breeding, and
M.G.S.) washing areas filthy. A Staff Officer's attention was drawn to these
14th Regt.) faults and he intends setting things in order. Ashes also were accum-
45th Regt.) -ulating in these incinerator areas.

Amb'ce. - Satisfactory.

Canteen and

Cinema - Things are generally much better here.
Ordnance - The latrines were found in a very foul condition and had not been receiving proper attention. Two men with four E.L.C. from this Section have fitted up new latrines and urine funnels, disinfecting the old ones which had been used by Indians and Egyptians as well as our own men. This is now rectified.

2nd Sig. Squad - A new soakage pit to wash benches has been asked for here but nothing has so far been done, otherwise improvement seen in sanitation.

2nd Fld. Squad. - Satisfactory.

D. H. Q. - Satisfactory here with the exception that the incinerator is too near the cook-houses.

DISINFECTION by spraying FORMALDEHYDE is being regularly carried out with a borrowed spray which is very much out of order. New ones have been indented for

but are unobtainable so far. We could keep two continually going. At present the following units are being done consecutively:- D.H.V., Fld. Squadron, Signal Squadron and Provost Corps.

The tent occupied by Sgt. Lee of the 11th Regt. (Typhoid patient) has been thoroughly sprayed to-day and closed up, with a warning posted that it be left closed up for at least 24 hours. A very strong solution was used for this purpose. E. L. C. - Sanitary natives are now working more satisfactorily. They report to this Section as requested, every morning.

(sgd.) W.S. Staff Smith S/sgt.
8th San. Sec.

5/4/19

(copy)

O. C.,

116th Sanitary Section.

At present the sanitary equipment at the area occupied by the A. I. F. Canteen and Cinema MOASCAR, consists of urinals only; this I think is insufficient. Could the following additions be made:-

A latrine of say SIX buckets and seats.

Screens would be necessary as otherwise I feel sure the ground will soon become fouled. In addition, sanitary personnel would be required for same, arrangement regarding which I presume would be made by the 116th San. Sec. as I understand the area in question comes under the supervision of that unit.

(sgd.) C. W. W. MURRAY CAPT.

O.C., 8th San. Sec. AUST. MTD. DIV.

26/3/19

D.A.D.M.S.
AUSDIV.

In accordance with your instructions I visited FAYED FISHING POST on the 18th inst. and I beg to submit the following report.

According to reports from the guard at this Post, mosquitoes have been very prevalent among them recently but owing to the strong sea breeze blowing from the lake during my stay in the camp I was unable to secure specimens of the adult mosquitoes.

Specimens of mosquito larvae were obtained from various points of the swamp which lies to the N.W. and S.W. of the camp. Among these I was unable to find any specimens of GENUS ANOPHELE - the specimens collected were all GENUS CULEX among which I recognised THEOBALDIA and OCHLEATATUS.

Owing to the nature of the surrounding country, a rash undertaking would be necessary in order to cope with these large mosquito breeding areas. The water from the Sweet Water Canal is drained onto the cultivated lands in the vicinity of the Railway Station and eventually finds its way through the swamps into the Salt Lake.

Irrigation channels are built through-out the cultivated lands and the adjoining swamps. In spite of the direct outlet of this surplus water to the lakes, by means of channels, the water finds its way to the lower levels of the swamp.

I estimate the surface area of these breeding areas at approx. 2000 sq. yds., necessitating quite a supply of kerosene if oiling would cope with the breeding. Proper channeling would in my estimation be the only means of doing away with these swamps and that would affect the irrigation of the cultivated lands towards the Railway Station.

With the exception of drinking water cisterns in the camp and a small well about 18" deep, about 50 yds. to the N. of the camp, the nearest area is about 300 yds. from the camp and I was informed that the mosquitoes were

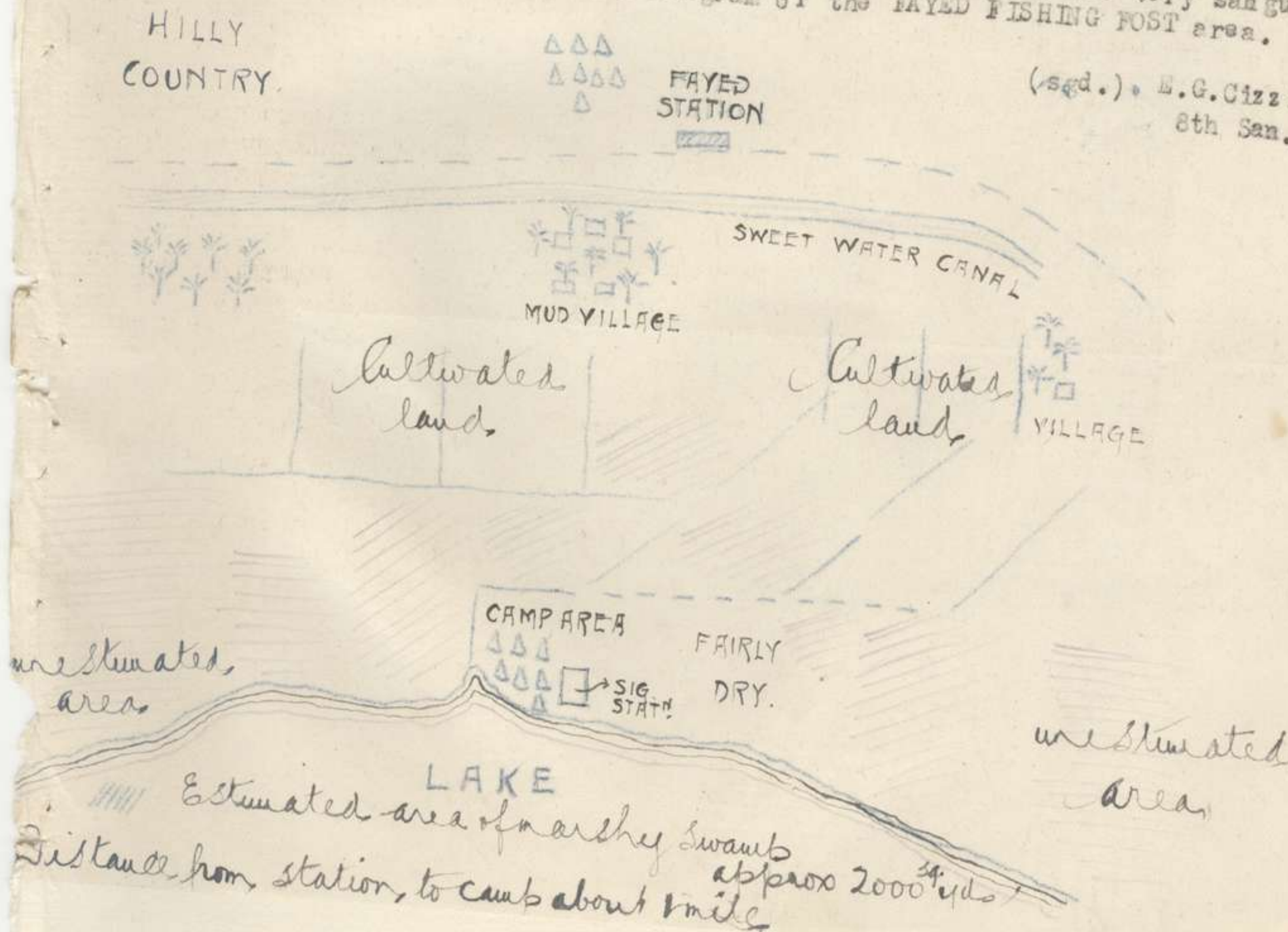
2.

APP. NO. 3

more prevalent when the breeze blows off the swamp than otherwise.

I would suggest the issue of mosquito nets to the guards (strength 1 officer 40 O.R.s) and the compulsory using of same, as a reasonable protection against the mosquito, together with the regular oiling, weekly, of the cisterns and areas in the near vicinity.

Apart from the mosquito, sand flies are very sanguine in this particular area. Below is a diagram of the FAYED FISHING POST area.



(copy)

APPENDIX NO. 4.D.A.D.M.S.,
AUSDIV.,SANITARY REPORT.

5th Brigade details - On inspection early in the week I found the sanitation of this Brigade in a very bad condition. I pointed out failures to the Sanitary Detail, then notified the Staff Capt. and the B. S. O., and since then the sanitation has greatly improved.

Aust. Divn. Train - Fly breeding found under incinerators. Advised sanitary detail how to treat same. A latrine was condemned as unserviceable and I have had another good latrine put in its place. Also had two new grease-traps and a soakage pit put in 4th Brigade Band-- I sent a man and a gang of natives to this unit to repair latrine, put in new grease-trap and urine tube, and to scavenge the area. When the work was completed I interviewed the O.C. suggesting that he keep the work up to its present standard.

Cinema Area - The sanitation of this area is being carried out by the Section. One latrine screen was broken down during night of 20/21st inst.. I notified the R. E.'s of the work required, on the 21st., but they have not yet attended to it.

MOSQUITOES - An inspection has been made in the near vicinity of AUSDIV. resulting in an unsuccessful attempt to find breeding areas. All pools in the irrigation system rear of AUSDIV. have been channelized.

SCAVENGING - Un-occupied mess huts, cook-houses, and latrines in the vicinity of Aust. Mtd. Divn. units have been scavenged.

NATIVES - We now have a regular gang of contractor's labourers.

LIME - is urgently needed but at present is not available from A. S. C..

FLY DETERRENT - SODIUM ARSENITE has been supplied to all units.

TIBBEN - I interviewed the Adjutant of the Remount Depot. and he advised me that any unit can obtain tibben for sanitary purposes if they provide their own transport and sacks, and collect before 0900 each day.

27/4/19

(sgd.) E. A. Palmer Sgt. 8th San. Sec.